

LEPIDOPTERA OF ABERDEENSHIRE, KINCARDINESHIRE AND BANFFSHIRE – 10th APPENDIX

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Abstract

Nineteen species are added to the list of Lepidoptera of north-east Scotland. Data on 7 other species for which there have been no records for many years, or which have expanded their range dramatically, are included.

Introduction

The number of Lepidoptera species being recorded from the north eastern counties of Kincardineshire, VC 91, South and North Aberdeenshire, VCs 92-93 and Banffshire, VC 94 continues to grow. Since the last Appendix (Palmer, Young and Leverton, 2002) 19 new species have been added and some important rediscoveries have been made. Some of the new species are recorded far north or east of their known distributions and one can only speculate as to how they arrived or whether they will establish themselves in the area. In other cases, such as *Cucullia chamomillae* (D.& S.), Chamomile Shark, a spectacular colonisation of an area far north of its previous known distribution appears to have occurred.

Records are from the authors unless otherwise acknowledged. The growing group of local lepidopterists has contributed much of the information included here and our thanks for these to David Barbour (DAB), Arthur Ewing (AEE), Chris Harlow (CJH), Cedric Holmes (CWNH), Nick Littlewood (NL), Scott Paterson (SP), Helen Rowe (HR), Helen Taylor (HT), Jeff Waddell (JW), and Jon and Marion Bailey who run the Rothamsted trap at Monymusk. Visiting lepidopterists: Keith Bland (KPB), Brian Elliott (BE) and Bob Heckford (RJH) have also contributed. Thanks also to Keith Bland for his help in extracting records from the Scottish Insect Record Index (S.I.R.I.) at The Royal Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Many records of the smaller species recorded from one or more of the four vice-counties of north east Scotland have been published in the annual microlepidoptera reviews (Langmaid & Young 2002-2004). With a few exceptions of species we consider notable or important, it seems unnecessary to repeat these here.

Incurvariidae

Adela cuprella (D.& S.) VC 94 Altnaglander NJ 1728 – numerous v.02 (DB) and again in abundance 16.v.04 (MRY). A very local species, known only from this single site in the north east but recorded as far north as Sutherland.

Tineidae

Nemapogon picarella (Clerck) VC 94 Spey Bay NJ 3464 – 18.iii.2004 (AEE) larva on *Piptoporus betulinus* – moth bred. A very rare species, the only previous records from this area are of single specimens in VC 92 in 1970, 1984 and 2004.

Roeslerstammiidae

Roeslerstammia erxlebelli (Fabr.) VC 92 Crathie woods NO 2695 – 18.vi.2003 (RJH) A very local species in northern Scotland but recorded from the neighbouring vice-counties of Moray and East Inverness and probably a long overlooked resident.

Choreutidae

Prochoreutis myllerana (Fabr.) VC 93 Gight woods NJ 8238 – 27.v.04, larvae on *Scutellaria* – moths bred. This is the first confirmed record from north-east Scotland where skullcap is a scarce and local plant.

Yponomeutidae

Zellaria hepariella Staint. VC 91 Inchmarlo, near Banchory NO 6796 – one 2003 (CWNH) det. gen. RMP. There are a few scattered records from Scotland, the nearest is from East Inverness.

Gelechiidae

Bryotropha affinis (Haw.) VC 91 Inchmarlo, near Banchory NO 6796 – two 4.vii and 17.vii.05 (CWNH) Recorded quite commonly in much of Britain as far north as East Inverness. There are no previous records from north east Scotland and the species may be a newly arrived resident but more probably an overlooked resident.

Sitotroga cerealella (Olivier) VC 92 Bucksburn NJ 8810 – adventive colonist imported in cobs of a decorative maize known as 'Indian Corn' to a house in Auchleven, VC 93 in 1991. When moths began to emerge from the maize seeds in large numbers they were taken to the Rowett Institute in Bucksburn for identification and became a temporary pest in laboratories there from 1992-1994.

Momphidae

Mompha lacteella (Steph.) VC 91 Inchmarlo near Banchory, NO 6796 – one (CWNH) is the only confirmed recent record. A dot on the map in MBGBI Vol 4 (1) showing the species recorded from VC 93 is an error. L.W.Hardwick erroneously sent a record from Banff to A.M. Emmet as VC93, the record is VC 94 (Macduff 1984) and is unconfirmed but probably correct, the species is recorded from neighbouring Morayshire.

Tortricidae

Pandemis corylana (Fabr.) VC 92 Crathie NO 2795 – two 14.vii.2003 (B.E.). Apart from the record of a single specimen in VC 94 in 1995 (Palmer et al, 1998) this species has not been seen here since the 19th Century (Reid, 1893).

Acleris effractana Hüb. VC 92 and 93 – a newly recognised species recently separated from *A. emargana* (Fabr.) (*vide* Karsholt *et al* 2005). The species has been known from N.E.Scotland since 1974, when it was bred from sallow on Sands of Forvie N.N.R. (VC 93) NK 0126 but identified as *A. emargana*. *A. effractana* was bred again from the same site in 2004 and has also been found as adults at Loch of Strathbeg 17.ix.79 and in VC 92 at Harestone Moss 1.ix.74. (*Acleris emargana* is a widespread species in N.E.Scotland)

Celypha rivulana (Scop.) VC 91, Glassel NO 6497– several 4.vii.2003 (KPB and CWNH) and subsequently found to be common in this small area. Also recorded from Ballater NO 3794 – one 14.viii.2005.

Epiblema trimaculana (Haw.) VC 93 Oldmeldrum NJ 8227 – two, 6-7.vii.2003. These specimens may have been migrants, there have been no subsequent records. The species is generally of a more southerly distribution but in June 2003 one was also recorded from the Black Isle (VC 106).

Lathronympha strigana (Fabr.) VC 91 St. Cyrus N.N.R. NO 7463 – 25.vii.2004. This is a species which had long been expected to turn up, and St. Cyrus with its extensive sand dunes and *Hypericum* in plenty was a likely place to discover it. Only one has been found so far but whether the species is a long overlooked low density resident or a migrant is not known. If it is the latter it seems very likely to establish itself there.

Pyralidae

Achroia grisella (Fabr.) VC 92 Cults NJ 8903 – rediscovered xi.2002 in a suburban loft where it was a resident in an old ‘wild’ nest of hive bees. The nest was destroyed with pesticides and at the the time of their discovery only corpses remained. VC 91 Inchmarlo – three – 11.vii.2005. 17.vii.2005 and 6.ix.2005 (CWNH). Last recorded from Netherley, Kincardineshire in 1942, when three were bred from a beehive; this species seems to have suffered from improved beekeeping techniques.

Plodia interpunctella (Hüb.) VC 93, Wester Duncanstone, near Inch NJ 5626 - 1997, one bred from a bag of organic flour (AEE). VC 92 Aberdeen, two bred from nut chocolate in 2005. These are the only records of this well known adventive species since one was taken in Aberdeen, bred from raisins in 1934.

Geometridae

Timandra comae (Schmidt) VC 91 one at Muchalls NO 9091 – 4.ix.2004 (JW). This occasionally migratory species has been recorded in the north-east only once previously in the 19th century at Burnhervie VC 92 (Reid, 1897). Details of the recent record have been published in a note by Waddell (2004). This species has also been recorded from Shetland where a total of 11 have occurred, the most recent being one in the spring and five in August of 2004 (Pennington 2004-5).

Coenocalpe lapidata (Hüb.) VC 92 between Ballater and Braemar NO 3195 – a strong colony was discovered on 11.ix.2002 (HR). There was speculation in

Appendix 9 that this species was resident on Upper Deeside, based on the capture of a single specimen in a Rothamsted trap near Braemar and this suggestion is confirmed.

Acasis viretata (Hübner) VC 91 Inchmarlo, near Banchory NO 6796 – two, v.2003 (CWNH). A recent arrival, spreading, and possibly becoming established. VC 92 subsequently recorded from three localities; near Inverurie 6.v.2004 (HR), Bucksburn NJ 8810, 14.v.2004, Monymusk Rothamsted trap NJ 6619, 22.v.04. The origin of five specimens in two years of a species which is not a noted migrant is a mystery but there are records in S.I.R.I. from Angus (VC 91), West Inverness-shire (VC 97), [and also from VCs 98 and 104]. There is also a record from the Morayshire border just west of Banffshire in 2003.

Lomographa temerata (D.& S.) VC 91 Feteresso, NO 7889 – one, 17.vi.2005 (NL). Recorded from the south of Scotland, records in S.I.R.I. give localities in VCs 72, 73, 74 and 76 and in the central lowlands; VCs 99 and 86. The most northerly record we have located is of one caught by Brian Neath at Dornie, Wester Ross in 2005.

Nolidae

Nola confusalis (H.-S.) VC 92 Rothamsted trap at Monymusk NJ 6619 – two, 26.iv and 17.v.2003 and subsequently in small numbers in 2004 (three) and 2005 (one). VC 93 Auchnagatt NJ 9242, one, 10.vi.2005 (CJH). This species was recorded, new to VC 94 in the previous appendix and so appears to be colonising the area from the west.

Noctuidae

Agrotis puta (Hübner) VC 92 Bucksburn NJ 8810 – one, 14.vi.2004. Virtually unknown in Scotland it has been suggested that this specimen was a possible adventive from the boot of my (RMP) car! I returned from a moth trip to Southsea the previous day but as the journey home took me three days and several stops along the way and moths found in hot cars are usually dead, this seems unlikely.

Cucullia chamomillae (D.& S.) VCs 91, 92, 93, 94 – the most remarkable species on the list, well known from the west of Scotland and the central belt, where it was recorded regularly in the 1970s at Falkirk and Grangemouth (CWNH) and has more recently been recorded from Galloway and the Isle of Arran (RMP). In S.I.R.I. there are records from Perthshire but none since 1934 and a single record from Newtonmore, Inverness-shire in 1954. When a specimen turned up in VC 93 at Auchnagatt NJ 9242 in 2003 we considered it a vagrant but two more were recorded the following year at Auchnagatt again and Oldmeldrum NJ 8227, and larvae were found on the Banffshire coast in 2004 (Leverton, 2005). In 2005 the moth was again found in VC 93 at Windyhills NJ8039 – 29.iv.2005 (HT) and larvae were found at St. Cyrus (VC 91), Blackdog links and the Ythan estuary (VC 92), and all over inland Aberdeenshire, at nine sites, mostly in arable field margins. Full details of this rapid colonisation are the subject of a note (Harlow, in preparation).

Amphipyra berbera svenssoni Fletch. VC 93 Loch of Strathbeg RSPB reserve NK 0558 – one dead in a hide, 26.viii.2004 (SP) and one at Auchnagatt NJ 9242 on 4.ix.2005 (CJH). These may be migrants, one was taken on Shetland with other genuine migrants in 1996, the only Scottish record in S.I.R.I. is of a specimen taken in Glasgow in 1984 but there are unpublished records from VC 81 (one) and VC 80 (10+ at light in a mature oak woodland in 2003 suggesting it is established in the borders) (JW).

Apamea scolopacina (Esp.) VC 92 Rothamsted trap, Monymusk NJ 6619 – one quite fresh specimen 9.viii.2005 is presumed to be a migrant. Published data on the distribution describes the species as occurring as far north as Yorkshire and Cumberland. There are no records in S.I.R.I. but the species has been recorded from the borders, recently in VC80 in consecutive years and once from VC79 (JW).

Heliothis peltigera (D. & S.) VC 94 Ordiquhill NJ 5755. This notorious migrant rarely reaches Scotland, the first north east Scottish specimen was netted at buddleia by day on 26.viii.2002.

Rivula sericealis (Scop.) VC 93 Auchnagatt NJ 9242 – two, 13.viii.2004 (CJH); Oldmeldrum NJ 8227 – one, 12.viii.2004 (accompanied by one *Hyles gallii* (Rott.)). The three specimens of this species recorded in 2004 are probably migrants: nine were found on Orkney and one on Shetland between 7-17.viii.2004. The species is known to occur in Inverness-shire and sometimes migrates in large numbers

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